THE VICAR'S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

As the Sanctuary Flower Guild has now been functioning for four months, this seems to be the right moment for me to say how grateful I am, not only to all those kind people who have given so unsparingly of their time in decorating our Parish Church, but also to those who have so generously given flowers. One has only to listen to some of the comments of parishioners and visitors to the Church to realise how much the floral arrangements are appreciated and admired.

While I am on the subject of Church Flowers I should also like to say how grateful I am to those good folk in Winterbourne Kingston who arrange the flowers in St. Nicholas week by week and make our daughter Church look so bright and charming.

There are one or two events taking place in the Autumn to which I want to draw your attention.

Firstly, I have fixed our Harvest Festival for the first Sunday in October, October 1st., both at Bere Regis and also at Winterbourne Kingston, and I hope that both Churches will be well and truly decorated in the usual style. Some people are apt to decry our traditional Harvest Festival as being a survival of pagan days - I confess that I entirely fail to follow their line of reasoning, but on the contrary. I feel very strongly that in these mechanical days anything that diverts our thoughts to God the Giver is of inestimable benefit. So I very much hope that our Harvest Festival Services will be well and enthusiastically attended.

Following up my feelings on Harvest Festivals we are on Saturday, September, 30th proposing to hold a Harvest Supper, 7.30 p.m. in the Women's Institute Hut. Tickets for this will be obtainable shortly from members of the Parochial Church Council, price 2/6d. I should mention that the number of tickets available will be limited to 100 so if you wish to come you should book your ticket as soon as possible, or you may be disappointed.

The second thing I wish to mention is a PLANT SALE which we are proposing to hold on October 28th. This will be an opportunity to all who have gardens to buy herbaceous plants of every variety and many other types of plants at very reasonable prices. Full details of this very original sale will be in next month's magazine, which I hope will be well supported.
Finally during this Autumn I am proposing to commence Confirmation Classes for young people and adults. I shall speak about this at more length in next month's issue. But in the meantime, I shall be glad if you will keep this matter well in mind.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,
Paul Tranter.

SANCTUARY FLOWER GUILD
September 3rd. Miss McFall.
September 10th. Miss McFall.
September 17th. Miss Storr's and Miss Anne Storr's.
September 24th. Mrs. Endacott. J.D.T.

THE DEVIL'S STONE.
Many years ago. long before motor cars or aeroplanes or Astronauts, a certain Bishop Poore, possibly an ancestor of the Poore family in Bere Regis, started to build a beautiful Cathedral in Salisbury. A lovely building. lovingly planned and carefully wrought. all for one purpose - to the Glory of God.

During the building the Devil. as is still his wont. was wandering round and saw the work going on. and in a fury he rushed off to Wales to one of his favourite ammunitions dumps and collected a bag full of stones. With these he was going to destroy the growing walls and steeple.

However, the Devil (who is always wrong) took the wrong road from Wales and found himself at Turnerspiddle, so he had to cut across Black Hill to get back to the Salisbury Road and there on Black Hill can still be seen one of the stones that dropped out of his bag.

Now it was a very hot summer's day, and when the Devil came down into Bere Regis he sat down by the side of the old dusty cart road. close (though he didn't know it) to our own beautiful Church. Just as he was nodding off into a doze our clock started to chime Twelve noon. and the pleasant tone from the House of God put fear and fury into the Devil, so that he jumped up and ran as fast as he could. In his panic he left the finest stone, the one he had intended to hurl at Salisbury Spire, lying at the place where he had rested. And if you want proof of this story you can search up the Kingston Road and find yet another, probably the last of his stones. not far off the road.

Many centuries later Tracks became roads and the roads became the race tracks of the Devil's own invention - the motor car. and to enable them to go faster and more furiously the Powers that Be widened the roads. shaved off gradients and sliced away corners. So the old road to Bere Regis was widened and straightened, but unforeseen, the Devil's stone lay in such a position that either the road be curved round it or the stone be moved. When it came to moving the stone none could budge it. Neither cranes nor bull-dozers nor levellers nor levers could shift it one inch. The Chairman of the Roads and Bridges Committee of the County Council consulted his Committee. The Surveyors and Foremen and drivers and Contractors discussed it and it was decided to destroy the stone by Pneumatic Drill, and break up the stone into small pieces. As soon as the metal point of the Drill bit into the stone there was a terrible flash of lightening and thunder rumbled round. terrifying the men on the work so much that they went green with fear and even their clothes turned green, and as you can see anywhere in Dorset the clothes of the men on road work are green to this day.

Now a very wise and much loved man. Mr. Whiteside. Schoolmaster here for many, many years, knew the story of the stone and he persuaded the Chairman of the Roads and Bridges Committee of the County Council to let him arrange for the preservation of the stone and move it. He had heard that the stone could only be moved as the Church Clock was striking Twelve Noon; so he organised the workmen to put chains and grappling irons round the stone and a great motor crane to stand ready and as the Church Clock struck its first note of Noon up came the stone as sweetly and lightly as a big ball of pigeon down and to the surprise and pleasure of the Roads and Bridges Committee and the Contractors and all the foremen and men. up the road trundled the crane to drop the stone neatly on a site prepared by Mr. Whiteside. outside our School Gate. Alas, the stone twisted as it was lowered. to show to all the passing world how it had been mutilated and the story goes that when Mr. Whiteside signalled to the crane driver to raise the stone again to turn it, the old stone refused to move.

So Salisbury Cathedral was saved from the attack by the Devil, and the Devil's stone stands for ever now at the entrance to our School and perhaps from this story, if anyone troubles to read it, a moral can be drawn.
BERE REGIS FOOTBALL CLUB.

Once again a new Football Season is nearly with us, and I'm sure that all sportsmen and women are, like us, looking forward to August 19th, the 'Kick-off' Day. May we extend to all our supporters many thanks for your support in the past, and extend to you all a welcome Hello for the new season.

The "Local lads" once again will do their very best to provide the village with good games at Home and Away, and hope that you will encourage them on with your attendance at the "Rec." during the season of 1961-62. We take pleasure in informing you all of our Fixture List for the coming Season.

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BERE REGIS WOMEN’S INSTITUTE.

The September Meeting will be held in the W.I. Hut at 7.00 p.m.
The Demonstration is on Beauty Culture.
The Competition will consist of items listed in Mrs. Janes window, for the Autumn Group Meeting. All new members are welcome.
The date for our Christmas Whist Drive is fixed for December 14th.

(Mrs.) R. Baines.

BERE REGIS SCHOOL NEWS.

The Open Afternoon and Evening held at the School on Thursday, 21st. July, attracted a large number of parents and friends.
Mr. W. Easton, the Primary Education Officer, addressed the parents on some aspects of Primary Education in the evening.
Col. A. Barne, School Manager, presented prizes to a number of children who had made good progress during the past 12 months.

Julia Davis won first Prize in the Needlework Section of the Gardens and Homecrafts Competition held at Dorchester Modern School.

S.J.E.

BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL.

At the July meeting of the Council, the Vicar was welcomed as a new member.

Among matters discussed, were an application for a telephone kiosk near Chamberlaynes Bridge, improvements in posting boxes at Rye Hill and Doddins, and the repayment of a loan to the Ancient Order of Foresters, for the layout of the Cemetery in 1941.
The Council learned with dismay, of a proposal by the Dorset County Council to move the Wareham Old People's Home to Poole. Very strong representation against this has now been made.
The attention of the Parish Council was drawn to the dangerous speed of traffic in West Street, and it is hope that the Police will shortly set up Radar Equipment in order to stop the very dangerous practice by some persons of using the main street as a race track.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at The Drax Hall on Tuesday, 26th September, at 7.30 p.m.
The following extracts are from the Pipe, Patent and Close Rolls of this reign relating to Bere Regis:

**1202-1203. £47.13. 2d. was spent on repairs to the King's houses at Bere, John de Turberville being one of the persons appointed to supervise the work. Although at the present time this amount would not go far in building work, in the early part of the 13th century it would have been a considerable sum.**

**1204-1205. £7.17. 4d. was paid for some unspecified works at Bere, and £8.13.10d. was spent in repairing the King's houses, stables and smithy.**

The Sheriff of Somerset was to have as many sheep as necessary to restock the Manor of Uphaven at the same price that they were valued when restocking "our Manor of Bere". (Close Roll, Oct. 3rd, 1204).

Wine was ordered to be carried from Southampton to Cranborne 3 barrels, Dorchester 8 barrels, Gillingham 8 barrels, Bere 5 barrels, and Sherborne 3 barrels. (Close Rolls, Jan. 13th, 1205)

**1205-1206. 13s. 4d. was paid for the keep of Randolph Parmentarius' sick horse and its attendant at Bere. He was the King's tailor and was an important personage.**

The King ordered the purchase of a "fair cross for placing in our chapel at Bere" (Close Roll, June 25th, 1205) the cost of this cross was 5/-d.

From Southampton, 5 doliums of wine were to be sent to Bere and 5 to Dorchester. (Close Roll, Oct. 25th, 1205)

Alexander of Wareham was to be paid for the carriage of 10 tuns of wine from Southampton to Wareham, Bere and Dorchester. (Close Roll, Jan. 12th, 1206.)

(to be continued). F.P. Pitfield.
have been rung calling countless numbers of people to worship. Of recent years they have been somewhat silent; before the tower was recently restored it was unsafe to "ring" and "chiming" only was possible, and often we have been used to hearing the solitary call of one bell to prayer and worship. Now, however, the bells can be rung again, and we look forward to the time when once more we shall hear them ringing over our countryside. I am hoping the Vicar will add a postscript to this short article, as I know he has plans for starting a 'Ringers Group' in the Autumn. Suffice for me to end with the words which were found in the Belfry of All Saints' Church, Hastings -

"There is no musick, played or sung,
Like to the bells when they're well rung."

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

BERE REGIS.

MARRIAGE.
July 29th. John Burden and Diana Oytiya Cheal.

BAPTISM.
July 25th. Elizabeth Anne (Ireland)

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WINTERBOURNE KINGSTON.

MARRIAGE.
August 5th. Edward Frank Vater and Janet Ruth Legg.

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"SMALL ADS."
(2/6d for every three lines)

LADIES HAIRDRESSING. BY QUALIFIED STYLIST. MRS. SOLDAN, "MERRIDOWN", SITTERTON, BERE REGIS. 308. RING BEFORE 9.30 a.m. for APPOINTMENT.